



NEWS RELEASE



For Release: Thursday, December 18, 2014

14-2152-DAL

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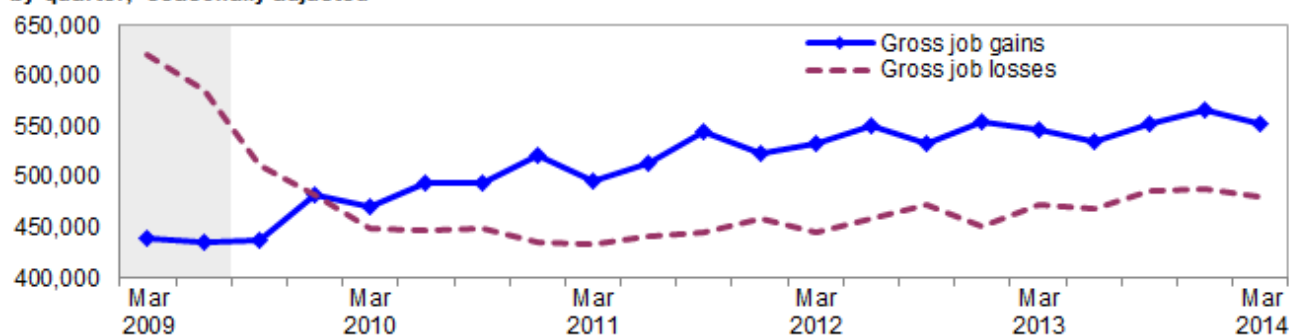
Business Employment Dynamics in Texas – First Quarter 2014

From December 2013 to March 2014 gross job gains in private sector establishments in Texas totaled 553,296, while gross job losses numbered 479,767, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 73,529. During the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 79,141.

The change in the number of jobs over time is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. Business Employment Dynamics (BED) statistics track these changes in employment at private business establishments from the third month of one quarter to the third month of the next. Gross job gains are the sum of increases in employment from expansions at existing establishments and the addition of new jobs at opening establishments. Gross job losses are the result of contractions in employment at existing establishments and the loss of jobs at closing establishments. The difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses is the net change in employment. (See the [Technical Note](#) for more information.)

Gross job gains in Texas have trended upward since bottoming out at about 436,000 in June 2009. After increasing in the previous two quarters, the number of gross job gains decreased by 13,308 in the three months ended in March 2014. Job losses in the state peaked in March 2009, when more than 620,000 jobs were lost, but have remained below 500,000 since December 2009. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses of employment in Texas, March 2009–March 2014 by quarter, seasonally adjusted

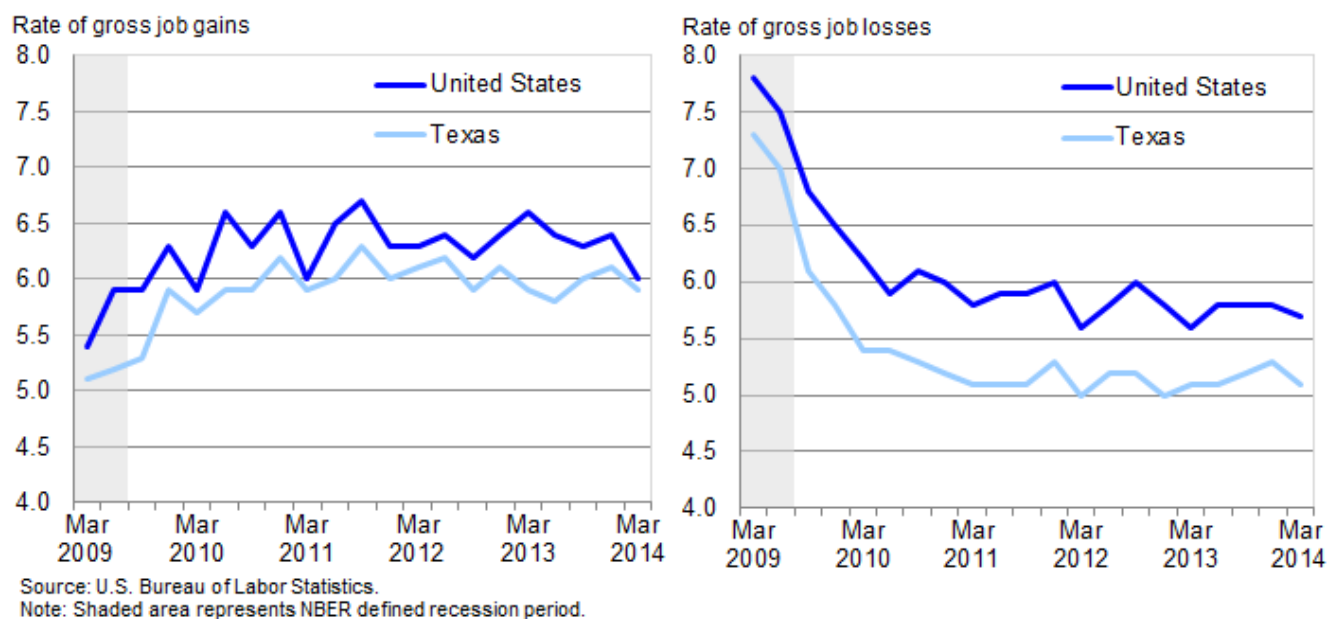


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Shaded area represents NBER defined recession period.

Gross job gains represented 5.9 percent of private sector employment in Texas in the quarter ended March 2014, while nationally gross job gains accounted for 6.0 percent of private employment. (See [chart 2](#).) The rate of gross job gains in Texas has been below the U.S. rate in each quarter since March 2009 and generally below the U.S. rate since the series began in September 1992. Similarly, the Texas rate of gross job loss as a percent of private sector employment, at 5.1 percent, was lower than the national rate of 5.7 percent in March 2014. With few exceptions, the Texas gross job loss rate has remained below the U.S. rate since the series inception.

Chart 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of employment, United States and Texas, March 2009–March 2014, seasonally adjusted



During the first quarter 2014, Texas gross job gains exceeded gross job losses in 10 of the 11 industry sectors. For example, more than 89,600 jobs were created by opening and expanding establishments in leisure and hospitality during the period, though over 69,300 jobs were lost at closing and contracting establishments. The resulting net gain of 20,246 jobs was the largest of any sector in the first quarter 2014. Other industries showing large net job gains included professional and business services and construction. Within professional and business services, more than 108,000 jobs were created at opening and expanding establishments, while nearly 96,000 jobs were lost at closing and contracting establishments, resulting in a net gain of 12,786. Construction recorded a net employment gain of 10,675, with about 56,100 gross job gains in opening and expanding establishments and around 45,400 job losses in closing and contracting establishments. (See [table 1](#).)

In contrast, the information sector recorded a net employment loss of 2,152 jobs. Although more than 8,100 jobs were added in opening and expanding establishments, these gains were an offset by a loss of over 10,300 jobs at closing and contracting establishments.

Additional statistics and other information

BED data for the states have been included in [table 2](#) of this release. For more information on the Business Employment Dynamics data, visit the BED web site at www.bls.gov/bdm/. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request: voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

The Business Employment Dynamics for Second Quarter 2014 are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (EST).

Changes to Business Employment Dynamics (BED) Data

Data in this release incorporate annual revisions to the BED series. Annual revisions are published each year with the release of first quarter data. These revisions cover the last four quarters of not seasonally adjusted data and five years of seasonally adjusted data.

Technical Note

The Business Employment Dynamics (BED) data are a product of a federal-state cooperative program known as Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), or the ES-202 program. The BED data are compiled from existing quarterly QCEW records. The QCEW reports are sent by the State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) to BLS and form the basis of the Bureau's QCEW program and establishment universe sampling frame. These reports are also used to produce the QCEW data on total employment and wages. Other important Bureau uses of the QCEW reports are in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES program produces monthly estimates of employment, net changes, and earnings by detailed industry.

In the BED program, the QCEW records are linked across quarters to provide a longitudinal history for each establishment. The linkage process allows the tracking of net employment changes at the establishment level, which in turn allows the estimation of jobs gained at opening and expanding establishments and jobs lost at closing and contracting establishments.

The change in the number of jobs over time is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. BED statistics track these changes in employment at private business establishments from the third month of one quarter to the third month of the next. Gross job gains are the sum of increases in employment from expansions at existing establishments and the addition of new jobs at opening establishments. Gross job losses are the result of contractions in employment at existing establishments and the loss of jobs at closing establishments. The difference between the number of gross jobs gained and the number of gross jobs lost is the net change in employment.

Gross job gains and gross job losses are expressed as rates by dividing their levels by the average of employment in the current and previous quarters. The rates are calculated for the components of gross job gains and gross job losses and then summed to form their respective totals. These rates can be added and subtracted just as their levels can. For instance, the difference between the gross job gains rate and the gross job losses rate is the net growth rate.

The formal definitions of employment changes are as follows:

Openings. These are either establishments with positive third month employment for the first time in the current quarter, with no links to the prior quarter, or with positive third month employment in the current quarter following zero employment in the previous quarter.

Expansions. These are establishments with positive employment in the third month in both the previous and current quarters, with a net increase in employment over this period.

Closings. These are either establishments with positive third month employment in the previous quarter, with no employment or zero employment reported in the current quarter.

Contractions. These are establishments with positive employment in the third month in both the previous and current quarters, with a net decrease in employment over this period.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Texas, seasonally adjusted

Category	Gross job gains and job losses (3 months ended)					Gross job gains and job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014
Total private ⁽¹⁾										
Gross job gains	547,024	535,691	552,753	566,604	553,296	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.1	5.9
At expanding establishments	451,169	449,694	463,733	475,439	461,583	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	4.9
At opening establishments	95,855	85,997	89,020	91,165	91,713	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Gross job losses	471,555	469,198	485,228	487,463	479,767	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.1
At contracting establishments	404,677	392,813	411,210	407,182	407,255	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3
At closing establishments	66,878	76,385	74,018	80,281	72,512	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	75,469	66,493	67,525	79,141	73,529	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Construction										
Gross job gains	56,773	52,203	53,276	55,012	56,118	9.4	8.6	8.7	8.9	8.9
At expanding establishments	49,294	44,546	46,058	47,863	48,541	8.2	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.7
At opening establishments	7,479	7,657	7,218	7,149	7,577	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Gross job losses	45,110	48,904	47,193	49,164	45,443	7.5	8.0	7.6	7.9	7.2
At contracting establishments	38,698	42,553	40,768	41,744	38,903	6.4	7.0	6.6	6.7	6.2
At closing establishments	6,412	6,351	6,425	7,420	6,540	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.0
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	11,663	3,299	6,083	5,848	10,675	1.9	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.7
Manufacturing										
Gross job gains	30,864	29,645	29,816	31,011	28,889	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3
At expanding establishments	28,268	27,095	27,627	28,271	26,210	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0
At opening establishments	2,596	2,550	2,189	2,740	2,679	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Gross job losses	28,056	29,077	29,260	27,221	27,012	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.1
At contracting establishments	25,785	25,895	26,037	24,283	24,467	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.8
At closing establishments	2,271	3,182	3,223	2,938	2,545	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	2,808	568	556	3,790	1,877	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.2
Wholesale trade										
Gross job gains	26,795	26,299	28,167	28,845	27,284	4.9	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.8
At expanding establishments	22,447	21,927	23,746	24,928	22,918	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.4	4.0
At opening establishments	4,348	4,372	4,421	3,917	4,366	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
Gross job losses	20,532	24,313	22,441	21,364	22,854	3.8	4.4	4.0	3.8	4.1
At contracting establishments	16,331	20,591	18,131	16,279	18,499	3.0	3.7	3.2	2.9	3.3
At closing establishments	4,201	3,722	4,310	5,085	4,355	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	6,263	1,986	5,726	7,481	4,430	1.1	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.7
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	71,138	69,264	71,829	73,766	70,644	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Texas, seasonally adjusted - Continued

Category	Gross job gains and job losses (3 months ended)					Gross job gains and job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014
At expanding establishments....	61,975	60,727	61,261	64,178	61,990	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.0
At opening establishments....	9,163	8,537	10,568	9,588	8,654	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.7
Gross job losses.....	66,518	51,550	58,771	61,153	65,228	5.5	4.2	4.8	5.0	5.2
At contracting establishments....	60,373	44,923	53,092	54,247	58,474	5.0	3.7	4.3	4.4	4.7
At closing establishments....	6,145	6,627	5,679	6,906	6,754	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Texas, seasonally adjusted - Continued

Category	Gross job gains and job losses (3 months ended)					Gross job gains and job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	4,620	17,714	13,058	12,613	5,416	0.4	1.5	1.1	1.0	0.5
Transportation and warehousing.....										
Gross job gains	19,250	20,612	19,198	23,257	21,439	4.9	5.2	4.8	5.9	5.4
At expanding establishments....	16,626	17,330	16,262	21,007	18,256	4.2	4.4	4.1	5.3	4.6
At opening establishments....	2,624	3,282	2,936	2,250	3,183	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8
Gross job losses.....	18,201	15,717	18,628	20,187	19,453	4.7	4.0	4.7	5.0	4.8
At contracting establishments....	15,916	13,002	15,603	16,501	16,875	4.1	3.3	3.9	4.1	4.2
At closing establishments....	2,285	2,715	3,025	3,686	2,578	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,049	4,895	570	3,070	1,986	0.2	1.2	0.1	0.9	0.6
Information.....										
Gross job gains	8,109	10,171	9,446	9,567	8,164	4.1	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.0
At expanding establishments....	7,072	9,098	8,315	8,414	6,729	3.6	4.6	4.1	4.2	3.3
At opening establishments....	1,037	1,073	1,131	1,153	1,435	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
Gross job losses.....	7,929	7,969	8,826	7,437	10,316	4.0	4.0	4.4	3.7	5.1
At contracting establishments....	7,068	6,424	7,695	6,368	9,049	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.2	4.5
At closing establishments....	861	1,545	1,131	1,069	1,267	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	180	2,202	620	2,130	-2,152	0.1	1.1	0.3	1.1	-1.1
Financial activities.....										
Gross job gains	30,370	32,398	33,642	32,547	29,811	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.3
At expanding establishments....	24,655	26,354	27,155	25,618	24,054	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.5
At opening establishments....	5,715	6,044	6,487	6,929	5,757	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8
Gross job losses.....	26,667	27,361	27,609	29,577	28,293	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.2
At contracting establishments....	21,010	20,705	21,901	23,519	22,207	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.3
At closing establishments....	5,657	6,656	5,708	6,058	6,086	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	3,703	5,037	6,033	2,970	1,518	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.1
Professional and business services.....										
Gross job gains	107,590	103,042	113,127	113,877	108,673	7.5	7.0	7.7	7.7	7.2
At expanding establishments....	89,211	86,355	95,295	91,583	90,119	6.2	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.0
At opening establishments....	18,379	16,687	17,832	22,294	18,554	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2
Gross job losses.....	94,563	97,772	97,330	99,482	95,887	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.3
At contracting establishments....	77,972	78,685	81,067	81,424	80,017	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.3
At closing establishments....	16,591	19,087	16,263	18,058	15,870	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.0

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Texas, seasonally adjusted - Continued

Category	Gross job gains and job losses (3 months ended)					Gross job gains and job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	13,027	5,270	15,797	14,395	12,786	0.9	0.3	1.1	1.0	0.9
Education and health services										
Gross job gains	67,789	61,116	64,686	68,857	62,586	4.8	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.4
At expanding establishments	49,789	51,630	54,389	58,617	52,665	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.1	3.7
At opening establishments	18,000	9,486	10,297	10,240	9,921	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Gross job losses	53,335	56,419	56,896	55,330	58,614	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.1
At contracting establishments	46,216	47,203	47,018	44,987	50,163	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.5
At closing establishments	7,119	9,216	9,878	10,343	8,451	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	14,454	4,697	7,790	13,527	3,972	1.0	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.3
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	84,866	86,553	83,264	84,382	89,626	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.7
At expanding establishments	66,830	68,169	66,421	67,499	70,103	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.8	6.0
At opening establishments	18,036	18,384	16,843	16,883	19,523	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7
Gross job losses	73,917	72,531	78,291	74,883	69,380	6.6	6.4	6.9	6.5	6.0
At contracting establishments	65,044	61,543	67,063	63,621	58,062	5.8	5.4	5.9	5.5	5.0
At closing establishments	8,873	10,988	11,228	11,262	11,318	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	10,949	14,022	4,973	9,499	20,246	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.8	1.7
Other services ⁽³⁾										
Gross job gains	19,233	20,456	20,196	20,483	21,058	6.9	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.4
At expanding establishments	15,438	16,507	16,055	16,399	16,743	5.5	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.9
At opening establishments	3,795	3,949	4,141	4,084	4,315	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5
Gross job losses	17,695	18,220	18,806	19,720	17,717	6.3	6.5	6.7	7.0	6.2
At contracting establishments	14,541	14,810	15,255	15,862	14,193	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.0
At closing establishments	3,154	3,410	3,551	3,858	3,524	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2
Net employment change ⁽²⁾	1,538	2,236	1,390	763	3,341	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.2	1.2

⁽¹⁾ Includes unclassified sector not shown separately.

⁽²⁾ The net employment change is the difference between total gross job gains and total gross job losses. See the Technical Note for further information.

⁽³⁾ Except public administration.

Table 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of total employment by state, seasonally adjusted

State	Gross job gains as a percent of employment (3 months ended)					Gross job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014
United States ⁽¹⁾	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7
Alabama	6.1	6.0	5.5	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.3	5.7
Alaska	10.9	10.7	9.8	10.1	10.8	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.4	9.6
Arizona	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.5	5.4	6.0
Arkansas	5.8	5.3	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.0
California	9.1	7.0	6.9	7.3	6.8	6.1	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.1
Colorado	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.1	5.9
Connecticut	5.2	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.2	4.8	5.4	5.4	5.0
Delaware	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.3	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.9
District of Columbia ..	5.9	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.7	5.1	5.4	5.5
Florida	6.7	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.0	5.8
Georgia	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.5	5.8	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.6
Hawaii	5.2	5.2	5.6	5.4	4.8	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	5.1
Idaho	8.1	8.0	7.7	8.3	8.4	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.2
Illinois	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.3	5.5
Indiana	5.6	5.7	5.6	6.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.5
Iowa	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5
Kansas	5.7	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.3	5.5
Kentucky	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.9
Louisiana	7.0	6.3	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.1	6.6	6.0	6.1	5.8
Maine	6.8	8.1	7.4	7.0	6.7	7.0	6.4	7.3	7.5	7.0
Maryland	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.4	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.3	5.8
Massachusetts	6.4	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.3	5.0
Michigan	6.2	6.3	5.9	6.0	5.5	5.0	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.1
Minnesota	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.7
Mississippi	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.6	5.7	5.5	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.9
Missouri	6.5	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.5
Montana	8.2	8.0	7.7	8.2	7.2	7.6	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.9
Nebraska	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.3	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.6
Nevada	6.3	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.6	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.3	5.2
New Hampshire	6.4	6.8	6.0	6.8	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.5	5.8	5.9
New Jersey	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.4	5.9	6.0	5.7	6.2	6.4	6.2
New Mexico	6.4	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.4
New York	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.0	6.0
North Carolina	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.4	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6
North Dakota	8.3	7.3	8.3	8.2	8.6	6.6	7.6	6.9	6.9	6.8
Ohio	6.0	6.2	5.6	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.6
Oklahoma	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.7	6.2	6.0
Oregon	7.2	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of total employment by state, seasonally adjusted - Continued

State	Gross job gains as a percent of employment (3 months ended)					Gross job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014	Mar. 2013	June 2013	Sept. 2013	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014
Pennsylvania	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.9
Rhode Island	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.7	5.7
South Carolina	5.9	6.3	6.2	6.7	6.2	5.7	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.8
South Dakota	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.9	6.3	6.2	5.7	6.3	6.0	6.1
Tennessee	5.5	5.6	5.5	6.3	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.3	4.7	5.3
Texas	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.1
Utah	7.4	7.0	6.9	7.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.1	6.0
Vermont	7.0	7.4	7.1	7.6	6.7	6.9	7.7	7.4	6.6	6.8
Virginia	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.5
Washington	8.6	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.6	6.3	5.9
West Virginia	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.7
Wisconsin	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.1
Wyoming	8.8	8.6	8.4	9.4	8.4	8.7	9.1	8.2	8.1	8.0
Puerto Rico	5.7	6.0	6.1	6.6	5.1	6.3	6.0	6.6	5.2	6.4
Virgin Islands	5.7	4.9	5.7	5.5	4.9	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.0	6.1

⁽¹⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.